

**Federal Emergency Management Agency
PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA)
for the City of Gulfport Department of Public Works Warehouse Project,
Harrison County, Mississippi
FEMA-1604-DR-MS**

Interested persons are hereby notified that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is proposing to assist in the funding of the City of Gulfport Department of Public Works Warehouse Consolidation Project in Harrison County, Mississippi.

On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina struck the Mississippi Gulf Coast, severely damaging several buildings operated by the City of Gulfport's Department of Public Works (DPW), including the Allen Plumbing Building and the Equipment Storage Building. The Allen Plumbing Building and the Equipment Storage Building, formerly located adjacent to the DPW Complex at 4050 Hewes Avenue in Gulfport, were more than 50% damaged and have since been demolished.

In lieu of the replacement of both buildings, the City of Gulfport has proposed to construct a new, consolidated DPW Warehouse on the southwest side of Hewes Avenue, opposite the DPW Complex. The new DPW Warehouse, with a footprint of 10,000 square feet, would be built on a portion of approximately 8.2 acres of cleared land, currently used as the DPW's staging area. The proposed building will utilize the area immediately south of the existing driveway. The remainder of the property will continue to be used as the DPW's staging area.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), Executive Order 11988, Executive Order 11990, and the implementing regulations of FEMA, an Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared to assess the potential impacts of the Proposed Action on the human and natural environment. The Draft EA summarizes the purpose and need, alternatives, affected environmental, and potential environmental consequences for the proposed action. The Draft EA and its associated Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) are available for comment and can be viewed and downloaded from FEMA's website at <http://www.fema.gov/plan/chp/envdocuments/ea-region4.shtm> or viewed and copied at the following locations:

- City Hall, 2309 15th Street, Gulfport, MS 39501
- Orange Grove Library, 12031 Mobile Ave., Gulfport, MS 39503

The comment period will end 15 days from the notice publication date, which is Tuesday, May 8, 2007. Written comments on the Draft EA can be mailed or faxed to the contact below. If no substantive comments are received, the Draft EA and associated FONSI will become final. Substantive comments will be addressed as appropriate in the final documents.

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